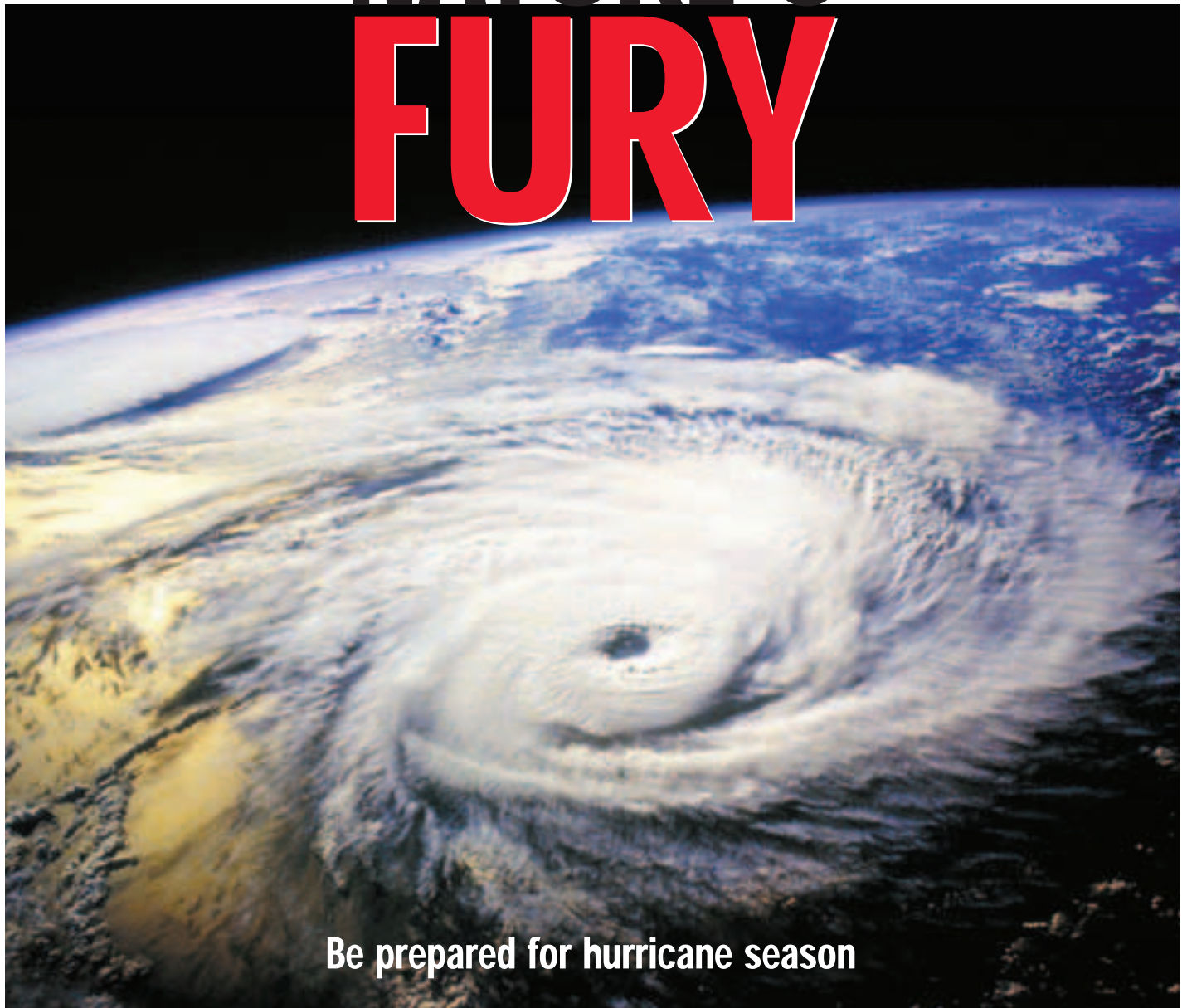


NATURE'S FURY



Be prepared for hurricane season

BY MARY MCAULIFFE

The Lowcountry offers a beautiful haven for residents and visitors alike – an area with balmy temperatures, gentle ocean waves and mild breezes.

But all that can change in the blink of an eye – the eye of a hurricane that is. When Mother Nature unleashes her fury between June and November on the Atlantic seaboard, everyone in our coastal community is at risk.

A hurricane is a storm born in warm, tropical waters – usually the southern Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea or the Gulf of Mexico – formed with the right combination of winds and rain to produce a larger, more powerful weather system.

Winds must reach 74 miles per hour for tropical storms to be labeled hurricanes, but the devastating winds can reach up to and beyond 155 miles per hour.